

Immaculata (Roman Catholic) High School
640 West Irving Park Road
Chicago
Cook County
Illinois

HABS No. ILL-1074

HABS
ILL,
16-CHIG,
73-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

IMMACULATA (ROMAN CATHOLIC) HIGH SCHOOL

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Location: 640 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

Present Owner: Sisters of Charity Blessed Virgin Mary.

Present Use: Parochial school.

Statement of Significance: The building is an example of the ecclesiastical work of Barry Byrne in Chicago during the early 1920's. Byrne's preference for tawney buff brickwork, red tile hip roofs, canted dormers, windows grouped beneath severe lancets, and stylized sculptural details recalls similar designs by contemporary "expressionist" architects in Germany. The sculpture and decoration over the southwest portal was executed by the Chicago sculptor, Alfonso Iannelli.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1921-22.
2. Architect: Barry Byrne (1883-?); Alfonso Iannelli (?-1964), sculptor.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of the property: Lot 14 in School Trustees Subdivision of Fractional Section 16-40-14.

The following was obtained from the complete chain of title contained in Book 544, pp. 230-35, 258, in the Cook County Recorder's Office: The property was originally in the possession of Samuel H. Kerfoot, June 15, 1870 (Document 8720). The Sisters of Charity Blessed Virgin Mary are mentioned on June 14, 1921 when the title was turned over to Chicago Title and Trust Company (Document 7173862). They continue to be the owners, as of the last entry of May 2, 1940 (Document 12475013).

B. Sources of Information:

Condit, Carl W. The Chicago School of Architecture. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964.

A fairly complete biography of Byrne and an analysis of his work.

Brooks, H. Allen. The Prairie School, The American Spirit in Midwest Residential Architecture, 1893-1915. Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, Department of Art, Northwestern University, 1957.

During his lifetime, Alfonso Iannelli compiled an archive of material relevant to his work in Chicago. This material has been deposited at Glessner House with the Chicago School of Architecture Foundation.

Prepared by Larry J. Homolka, Historian
National Park Service
August 1965

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The records and measured drawings of this structure were made during the 1965 Chicago III Project. This was the third in a series of four summer projects designed to record the significant architecture of the Chicago area. Special attention was given to the Chicago and Prairie Schools of architecture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The project was sponsored by Mr. Earl A. Reed, FAIA. He was assisted by a Finance Committee composed of John Fugard, FAIA; William E. Hartmann, FAIA; Alfred Shaw, FAIA; and a Selection Committee consisting of James Arkin, AIA; Ruth Schoneman, Art Institute of Chicago; and J. Carson Webster, Northwestern University. Organizations cooperating with HABS in this project were the City of Chicago, the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and its Foundation, the Society of Architectural Historians, the Carrick Salvage Fund, and the Women's Architectural League of Chicago. The University of Illinois provided office space.

Professor J. William Rudd, then of the University of Cincinnati, served as the project supervisor. Other members of the summer team were assistant supervisor and Historian, Larry Homolka, Harvard University; photographers, Harold Allen and Richard Nickel; secretary, Mrs. Bert P. Schloss, and student architects, Cary Burk, Texas Technological College; Charles Gregersen, Illinois Institute of Technology; Edward Popko, University of Florida; and Thomas Ross, University of Illinois, Urbana.